

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 H-03 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 NSCE-00 SPC-03 OC-06 PRS-01 USIE-00 USSS-00

SY-10 FAA-00 WRD-03 INRE-00 /108 R

DRAFTED BY S/CCT:LHOFFACKER:GMD

APPROVED BY S/CCT:LHOFFACKER

S/S-O:PSARROS

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O 180302Z DEC 73 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 246133

TOSEC 276

E.O. 11652:XGDS3

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: LUFTHANSA HOSTAGE SITUATION IN ATHENS

1. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ORTONA CONVEYED TO DEPT AROUND 1940 EST GRAVE CONCERN OF ITALIAN PRIMIN AND FONMIN OVER FIRM STANCE OF GOG VIS A VIS TERRORISTS THREATENING TO TAKE LIVES OF ITALIAN HOSTAGES AT ATHENS AIRPORT. PRIMIN AND FONMIN HOPED THAT USG WOULD WITHDRAW FIRM COUNSEL WHICH IT IS UNDERSTOOD USG WAS GIVING GOG IN CIRCUMSTANCES SO THAT RELEASE OF PRISONERS HELD BY GOG COULD BE EFFECTED.

2. DEPT RESPONDED TO ORTONA THAT FIRM POLICY WHICH WE HAD ENUNCIATED TO ORTONA EARLIER IN DAY, AS WELL AS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, WAS ARRIVED AT AT HIGHEST LEVEL
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IN USG, APPLIED TO OUR AMBASSADORS AND ACROSS THE BOARD,

AND COULD NOT BE APPROPRIATELY REVERSED IN PRESENT
CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. ORTONA REPLIED THAT HE EXPECTED SAME AND WOULD DELAY
CONVEYING WHAT WILL BE BAD NEWS TO ROME. HE ADDED THAT
FONMIN WAS FEARFUL THAT IF ITALIAN BLOOD WAS SPILLED BY
USG-INSPIRED INFLEXIBILITY ON PART OF GOG, US-ITALIAN
RELATIONS COULD BE DISTURBED. RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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